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FLOOR DEBATE

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bill provides immunity from civil and criminal liability to physicians, hospitals, and other birthing facilities, laboratories, or anyone else, making required reports or notifications of newborn screening and testing information under the bill. The committee amendment removes that immunity in cases of gross negligence or willful, wanton conduct. Really, it's a trial attorneys' amendment that we were asked to put in. The second thing it does is the amendment updates a reference to a federal statute on page 6 of the bill. That we referred to last year, I haven't heard it referred to this year, as the Chambers' amendment that Senator Chambers had asked that we put into bills where it was not present. And, three, the amendment changes fee provisions of the bill. It strikes much of the original fee language in the bill and authorizes HHS Regulation and Licensure to set up an administrative fee of no more than \$10 which is collected by the testing laboratory in addition to the actual cost of the testing. The department may use the fee to pay for the cost of the central data registry, tracking, and monitoring, referral, quality assurance, program operation, program development, program evaluation, and authorized treatment services of the section. That's what the amendment does. I would urge support of the amendment to LB 235.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the committee amendments?
Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, I perceive, first of all, that Senator Byars wanted to make some additional comments. So I would invite him to use my time, if he would like to at this point.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Byars, I see you frantically pushing your button. I assume you want to speak. You are now recognized.

SENATOR BYARS: Yes, frantic only because I was pushing the wrong button, Mr. President. (Laughter) But, thank you, Senator Beutler. Would rise in support of the committee amendments. I think they make a good bill better. I think they're common sense. It is going to be...going to be agreeable to the insurance industry and something they can live with, and